Modernising the Survey of India

2584. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have plans to modernise the Survey of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether new approaches like Global Positioning System, Geographic Information System and use of space imageries ae employed by the organization to update its topo maps; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Schemes have been approved to introduce state-of-art technologies in the fields of data acquisition, data transformation, data archival, data dissemination including Digital photogrammetric work sations; Handheld GPS integrated with tablet PCs for field verification; Differential Global Positioning System for establishing provision of precise ground control points; hardware and software for the digitization of maps, upgradation of maps using satellite imageries and Aerial photographs and converting data into GIS ready format. Automatic pattering and generation of colour separates of film positive for publishing of maps, State-of art printing machines for high speed printing of paper maps. Also, the Hardware and software required for storage and management of spatial data base.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Survey of India has already started using Global Positioning System, Geographical Information System and setellite imageries/aerial photographs to update the maps.

Launch of Cartosat-I

2585. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the planned launch of Cartosat-I this year will provide Survey of India with unique inputs to improve mapping methodology;